

Broadland Futures Initiative

Progress Newsletter

UPDATE TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

In this edition:

Toolkit information, modelling update and maintenance programme

Welcome to the latest edition of the BFI Progress Newsletter. In this edition, we are going to look at the latest information on the toolkit, modelling and partnership work.

The Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) is developing a 100-year strategy to manage flood risk across the Broads, the adjacent low-lying coast, and Great Yarmouth.

Toolkit information

A crucial aspect of this strategy is understanding how we can address future flood risks and deciding between various potential approaches. This task is complex due to the wide range of management options available across the extensive area under consideration.



Last year, we consulted on a 'toolkit' of sixteen potential flood risk management actions, which range from providing flood warnings to constructing a barrage that would permanently block tidal waters. Many of these actions can work in tandem, such as the existing network of flood embankments and pumping stations in the Broads.

Feedback from the consultation confirmed that no significant actions had been overlooked and, in some cases, provided insights into how these actions could be effectively implemented in our study area.

Since our spring update, the BFI team has been working on refining the extensive list of potential flood risk management action combinations into a more manageable set. These can then be tested against the BFI objectives. This work is ongoing and will be shared with you as soon as we are able.

Modelling update

Looking ahead, a key tool for evaluating possible flood risk management actions and their combinations will be the computer-based hydrological models of the Broads river system and coastal frontages. These models will help us understand how different management actions will affect the frequency and extent of future flooding.

Over the summer, the BFI team has been finalising these models, which is a key milestone for us.

The team has also begun to review the outputs of the hydraulic model. This work includes consulting with local people to ensure the models align with their experiences of previous flood events, and testing the model against existing data such as the water levels recorded during Storm Babet.

While the modelling results are vital to the appraisal process, it is equally important to assess how well each potential flood risk management action aligns with the thirteen objectives of the BFI strategy.

For further information on modelling please watch: [BFI- Hydraulic Modelling \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

The new model has recently been used to assess whether dredging the area known as the 'Bure Hump' would help alleviate flooding within the wider Bure catchment. The final outputs of this assessment, can be found here [Broadland Futures Initiative \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://broads-authority.gov.uk).



Appraisal methodologies

The strategy will be a long-term 100-year perspective and it will not detail precisely how each action will be practically implemented. The appraisal process needs to consider this challenge.

To address this, the project team is developing methodologies and tools for different topics which range from economic considerations to landscape.

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They include matters like the heritage of the area, the salinity regime of the tidal rivers as well as the well-being of people living and visiting the area.

This work will continue through the rest of this year, with the goal of starting to appraise the potential flood risk management actions in 2025.

Maintenance programme

Whilst the BFI will establish the long term flood risk management requirements of the Broads, in the meantime the Environment Agency continues to maintain existing flood risk management assets.

This year the Environment Agency has worked in partnership with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to carry out a crest level maintenance programme for the grass-covered embankments at Horse Fen, Hickling South and Decoy Road. This partnership working has delivered significant cost savings and efficiencies.

The works involved placing material on top of the embankment to provide a consistent crest height. This should reduce the number of times this embankment is overtopped. Wherever possible, we used material already in the vicinity of the embankments. This working method reduces the costs, carbon emissions and disruption on the local road network. The reed beds re-grow very quickly so there are minimal impacts to the habitat and the regrowth locks in carbon.

Royal Norfolk Show

BFI were represented on the Anglian (Eastern) RFCC stand at the Royal Norfolk Show this year. We met with lots of people and were able to answer questions and spoke about general project information. We have included some photos of this event showing the variety of partners we worked with over the 2 days of the show.

This work forms part of our wider engagement strategy, which we are currently updating.



Please scan the above QR code to complete a short survey if you would like to join our mailing list. Also available [here](#).

CONTACT US

Broadland Futures Initiative

Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1RY

info@broadland-futures.org.uk

Website:

<https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/climate-change/broadland-futures-initiative>